

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus for determining the relevance of images retrieved from a database relative to a specified visual object category. The method comprises transforming a visual object category into a model defining features of the visual object category and a spatial relationship therebetween, storing the model, comparing a set of images identified during the database search with the stored model, calculating a likelihood value relating to each image based on its correspondence with the model, and ranking the images in order of the respective likelihood values. The apparatus comprises a processor for transforming a visual object category into a model defining features of the visual object category and a spatial relationship therebetween.